

MRS
8/21/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|---------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Art Unit: | N/A |) | |
| | |) | |
| Examiner: | N/A |) | |
| | |) | |
| Applicant(s): | Orval A. Oppertthausen |) | PRELIMINARY |
| | |) | AMENDMENT |
| | |) | |
| Serial No.: | N/A |) | |
| | |) | |
| Filing Date: | |) | |
| | |) | |
| Title: | Pipe Insulation Coupling |) | |
| | |) | |
| | |) | |

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1-18 and add the following new claims:

19. A pipe insulation coupling for coupling adjacent ends of elongated pipe insulation tubing surrounding a tubular pipe comprising:

an elongated body extending along a longitudinal axis between a first end and a second end, said elongated body including a first generally C-shaped clam shell portion and a second generally C-shaped clam shell portion; said first and second clam shell portions defining a cylindrical outer tube wall extending along said longitudinal axis between said first and second ends, a cylindrical